

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

Topic	Comment Question	Comment Answer	VisitID
Arts	General Suggestions	Promote more venues for musicians	2364472
		Add Aurora to the vanishingly few places in the US that allow outdoor drinking. All of these places enjoy tremendous tourism income.	2364705
		If the focus will be arts and entertainment, we needs clear, safe walkways and true sense of community in all areas of the downtown area. As an upper middle class resident, I would like to see the economic development improve and draw more small businesses and choices to the area. This will benefit the artist for sales and what not as well.	2364775
		Support more music venues - help them open and bring talent to the downtown	2364804
		Fine dining.	2364853
		Make it very attractive for restaurants and boutique shops to open in downtown.	2366474
	Arts task force	I wouldn't want this to become something that controls the arts, rather encourages and supports the arts.	2351461
		Aurora needs a unified vision - strategy. A cultural plan. We have lots of disconnected groups and people - creative people - working in different directions with no cohesive plan. Someone (the city) needs to step in - step up - and provide funding and logistical support. With that support they then can help guide all these creative ducklings into a common direction.	2351738
		Once a task force is created there is a structure of people that blocks progress due to votes and personal interests.	2352407
		The Paramount is a great venue, but it needs more support around it. There is a lack of dining establishments, hotels, and other entertainment places to draw people downtown. Even restaurants with jazz or comedy would increase traffic to the city among diverse groups.	2359994
		I think this would be fine as long as the artists who have put in so much effort thus far lead the charge. We don't need some government entity taking over.	2361934
		Include the schools!!! (I work at NVHS, we'd love to get involved, I'm sure!)	2363354
		Arts task forces are notoriously unhelpful because they engage institutions and not the artists	2364372
		To be effective and have impact, will funds be provided to support nonprofits and artists to implement vision?	2364396
		I love what is happening downtown re entertainment.	2364766
		Allow arts students to volunteer and learn from this	2365001
		Can we repaint some of the old faded advertising on the old buildings?	2365221
		I'm not sure about this since it could lead to a whole lot of nothing. We already have APAC and the Aurora Arts Authority. It sounds good, but in reality, not so sure. Grassroots efforts have been successful, but funding is an issue.	2365445

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	to do what?	2365848
	The task force needs to include artists and arts educators.	2366042
	More collaboration, less competition. Lots of egos can get in the way...	2366226
Architectural tourism	Some of the best! The whole DTA, west side and east side is an architectural gold mine. Capitalize on it! Best housing in the western suburbs. Great neighborhoods too.	2351698
	We have AMAZING architecture -- and had a great historic preservation department before funding cuts gutted the entire staff. Now that the economy is "rebounded" the city needs to get serious and refund the department (with a full time-dedicated staff) and make preservation a priority. Our historic buildings (many of which are vacant) could be (should be) seen as an untapped source of raw materials - waiting to be utilized re-purposed.	2351738
	We also need to preserve the architecture we have.	2352407
	This is great, if we preserve the architecture to tour. This would include our older neighborhoods that have some stunning homes.	2355334
	Rather than create architectural tourism, develop occupants for those spots. The buildings are nothing if no one is inhabiting or working in them. The investment needs to be there to make the community attractive before people will come to recognize the architectural beauty.	2359994
	Yes, and hire local historians as guides. Offer Ghost tours...everyone loves them, especially in the fall! I know there is so much good to share about Aurora!	2363354
	Aurora's architecture is amazing, especially the commercial buildings. I hope private investments in bringing businesses to a thriving cultural downtown occurs over the next 5-10 years. Tourism promo could help that. Along with a tech corridor downtown and loft conversions for professionals to live nearby.	2364396
	Let's continue to restore buildings and businesses.	2364766
	How about an annual walking historic house tour?	2365221
	We need this! Although some don't realize the importance, this puts downtown Aurora on the map and stands apart from others.	2365445
Public art	I'd love to see more small-scale public art integrated into the everyday street-scape. Think creative sculptures that double as bike-racks and street furniture. Or think whimsical art (small-scale that you need to stop and discover on foot as opposed to bigger sculptures). At the same token - I love public plazas - fountains - etc - that incorporate art - but think that whatever art is created it should be a public process - open call submissions, public forum, etc.	2351738
	This could be good, but could be long delayed by voting on what is appropriate if the city is involved.	2352407
	YES! Big or little displays are great to discover while visiting a city. Especially when you present it as some kind of "hunt" and learn theme.	2355334

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Take away ordinances restricting artist from using public or private space for murals allow the community to show themselves through their art. No requirement to apply for the art commission to approve or pay a fee.	2356042
	Excellent idea. Art should reflect community -- perhaps murals from local artists?	2356167
	I think we do a great job promoting art in our town.	2364119
	Good idea	2364348
	public art is good, but is too limited to sculpture.	2364372
	Organize volunteers...parents students all school involvement Have contests and art shows with prizes	2364486
	Naperville has painted murals on their brick walls. Can we do that?	2365221
Artists lofts	Although I like the idea, I'm not sure taxpayer money should be used for restricted housing.	2351461
	getting creative people to LIVE downtown is the key. It all starts with getting a group of cool-kids together living under one neighborhood.	2351738
	getting creative people to LIVE downtown is the key. Artists are early adopters. They are passionate about the communities in which they live, and they put their sweat equity into making positive changes in the community. It all starts with getting a group of cool-kids living - working - playing together in one neighborhood.	2351738
	We are paying them from the businesses here in the city...provide a place for them to stay and spend some of that back within the city limits.	2355334
	I personally think this is a boondoggle. \$35million for a building not worth \$5million in terms of current market value?? Spend that kind of money to rent to lower income artists? I fear that will create more problems for parking and other infrastructure. And will people paying rents at the lower end of the market have disposable income to spend. And where would they spend it is they do? On the empty stores, a plethora of beauty supply shops, latino bridal shops and taco stands. I have nothing against those types of businesses but that is mostly what is downtown. A few nicer restaurants have shown up lately and the Paramount is great but nothing else to buy there. No place to buy breakfast or even a convenience store to buy milk and bread at. So where are all these new lower end renters gonna shop?	2359990
	I'm a local artist and this would rock	2361710
	I agree with this but don't think it should be subsidized at the suggested level.	2361934
	Not a good idea or investment.	2362880
	Aurora needs artist space, but not just for seasonal performers, studios and live work spaces for visual artists, musicians as well. But beyond providing space providing places for the intersection of the artists and the public is crucial to having a vibrant arts community	2364372

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		This is a great idea but costly Unless it would be local groups supporting coffee houses Connect with Chicago artists To have functions quarterly Engaging on art exhibits at public places like the new library or the train station or even city hall.	2364486
		Not sure it is government's role to pay for workers' housing. What about the disabled first.	2365221
		I love this idea, but I'm afraid it won't succeed until we have a stronger arts base in the community.	2365751
		I do not support this at all. There is already enough low income housing in the area.	2365753
		I notice this received the least support on social media, probably because it could technically fall under "support and promote the arts", but as an artist, one of the issues in Chicago is a lack of space and antiquated laws regarding live/work spaces. Another issue is that "artists' lofts" tend to be priced to attract anything but artists. This should be prevented.	2366042
		Artists are currently cramming into the Hotel. Developing a loft space would bring more positive year round foot traffic downtown.	2366226
	Support and promote arts	It's a "2" not because I think it's unimportant, but rather because this seems to be happening already without requiring taxpayer support. I'd much rather see resources go towards responsibly developing the riverfront and encouraging local business.	2351485
		Goes back to the "task force" -- we should have one clear vision that can be then marketed in support of the arts.	2351738
		To some it may be a "feel good" effort without much economic potential. I disagree. Over the last few years I've seen the crowds that come out to Aurora and look for MORE to do and see here. However, it should stay affordable for families and fixed income folks too.	2355334
		The more attractions you create, the more foot traffic will exist and the more attractive our city will look to future investors, companies and eventually paying customers.	2359952
		I'm an amateur photographer and have often thought of opening a gallery downtown that would feature other amateurs in the city. Perhaps some could be sold and events could be held there. However, perhaps the city could create a photography museum.	2363967
		This has got to go beyond River's Edge park and the Paramount, we need galleries and small musical venues, we need ways for artists to not only make art, but to make a living off their art.	2364372
		This has to be top priority for Aurora...get the Chamber of Commerce to promote this idea	2364486
		How about an annual artist' market.	2365221
Economy	General Suggestions	Our city reputation is considered low income people live here.	2355561
		Connecting all parts of Aurora. Sometimes on the Far East side I feel like we're not even a part of Aurora. Most government centers and everything are all downtown	2363148
		Suggest more activities young adults can enjoy	2363519
		Safety and family friendly	2364880

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Move the police station to downtown to better service all of aurora...not just closer to 204 aurora and to encourage/promote the safety of enjoying downtown Aurora	2364965
Address barriers to business	Yes! Nothing sadder than seeing businesses in and out within months because of lack of resources to stay long-term in build a customer base. Why aren't we working harder (cheaper!!) for businesses to come??	2351698
	Absolutely! Aurora tends to throw up road blocks for those willing to improve the downtown business scene. While derelict owners let buildings rot.	2355334
	Our sales tax is to high in aurora.	2355561
	Allow weekday lunchtime food trucks. While the city has allowed countless Mexican restaurants to open, a variety it'd be nice.	2356417
	Not enough Parking and foot traffic. To many vacant store fronts make it less inviting.	2359856
	We need high end stores and not all ones race stores. Shopping needs to be for all races	2360255
	Too many mandates, rules and inspections. The Historical District is killing downtown. Let market forces determine	2360486
	Don't give away the house and compromise on an overall good city experience.	2361433
	Identify anchor institutions to draw other business opportunities	2363173
	Assuming that the barriers are hurting the potential for "good" businesses.	2363336
	Don't know this firsthand but I've seen comments on Facebook about how difficult it is to open a business downtown.	2363349
	I hope the city of Aurora can promote more minority business and not gentrify their constituents	2363479
	Smart idea but would need to be something usefull for the entire community	2363747
	It would be nice to see successful shops that would attract many people to downtown Aurora, not just one demographic group of people.	2363920
	Having repeated customers and drawing new people in	2363966
	Please no more pawn shops or jewelry stores downtown. Make ALL stores accountable for maintaining store front presence/standards of appearance. These stores should try to emulate what is going on in downtown Naperville. This would bring better business partners to the area. Both small and well known businesses.	2364013
	The city must make this a top priority	2364348
	The city must make this a top priority we have enough of the same type of restaurants.We need a variety of shops and food	2364348
	Allow other contractors to bid on work. Dolan and Murphy and other friends of the mayor (weisner) have a chokehold on the city	2364477
Very little mainstream business currently	2364757	

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Replace the entire staff of plans reviewers. They are the most difficult to work with in the whole area	2364763
	Downtown Aurora could be great! There is space, location is good, the river is gorgeous. We need to ensure safety and being in some stores that draw a variety of buyers. I am so glad to see YM boutique, we need more stores like that...not selling the same thing, but great small shops. Different restaurants for stopping for a bite, in between shopping, I would love for my high school kids to be able to spend the day downtown like they do in Geneva, Naperville or Glen Ellyn. Again, a variety of stores, bike shop, candy store, hot dogs stands, market, clothing stores, and some great art stores.	2364775
	Less local businesses & more recognizable businesses (ie. Starbucks, Panera Bread, Chipotle, TGIFriday's, etc..)	2364952
	I don't know all the rules in place but I hear Aurora does not make it easy for businesses to open here. We need to be more open to new ideas and make it a smooth operation for businesses wanted to come to town!	2365161
	More businesses that attract people will add to the life of the city. Need coffee shops- Starbucks or locally owned and shops	2365343
	allow tax incentives for diverse small businesses, we need more variety in types of food and culture	2365424
	The largest barrier is the business owner. We need passionate business owners who expand their hours and have a sustainable business plan that doesn't rely wholly on foot traffic.	2365445
	parking,parking,parking	2365455
	PARKING	2365541
	Businesses look for a certain clientele. Entering Aurora, especially from the far east side is not appealing, this has to be fixed. Enforce code violations and be vigilant in these neighborhoods.	2365734
	This ties into business assistance, but things to be considered should be access to capital, education, immigration status (immigrants, 1st, and 2nd generation families have more obstacles than families who have been in the states for longer), local laws, zoning and ordinances, especially antiquated laws which prohibit businesses from operating.	2366042
	Make it easier for patrons to frequent all spots in downtown area without concern of getting ticketed for parking.	2366055
	Want to see small food vendors that sell different things like a chocolate store or candy shop so people will stop by and take something to snack on and walk around downtown	2366201
	Publish a clear and transparent Roadmap of support. Bring the Fiber Cable into as many buildings as possible, as quickly as possible. It feels like the city gov is hoarding resources and squatting on our tech sector ... set it free!	2366226
Economic	Hmm, what niche role is that?	2351698

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

development plan	Utilize some buildings for two floor businesses. I have seen grocery stores of two levels in Washington DC using old structures within an area instead of razing them and rebuilding new.	2355334
	Diversify dining. Maybe add some antique shops. Add more small specialty stores.	2355836
	Leave business alone. Cut City staff by 50%. Lower taxes	2360486
	Create a plan that includes authentic cultural experiences. Aurora has a very high Hispanic population. Authentic experiences, museums, food create tourism, jobs and additional resources.	2363173
	Why is Aurora the only city in the surrounding suburbs with the worst downtown? Let's make an effort to revitalize our city center	2363479
	Get us out there	2363747
	We need a unique theme or brand	2364348
	We have tried this many times in the past. Work on the other areas of concern first. Until businesses want to locate here no reason to chase to little projects a year	2364763
	See the above comments, but truly, Downtown Aurora has such great space...we need to capitalize on it! Where are the great shops??? Can we get a couple staple chain stores and then some fabulous small businesses? The arts may be the draw...but then some small comedy clubs...but we things during the day. Variety and I wish some of the stores would appeal to the citizens of the west side and north Aurora areas.	2364775
	BUILD MINI CONVENTION CENTER WITH TAX FREE BONDS LIKE US CELLULAR FIELD DID	2365541
	Look at what is causing families, especially entrepreneurial ones, in Chicago and other neighboring suburbs to leave; observe where they are moving to and what those places are doing right. Also look at the reasons why people may want to remain in around and Chicago and focus efforts on those who want the urban lifestyle but are more open to leaving. Rather than try to be another Chicago (or Naperville), it would be nice to see Aurora model itself after places like Portland and Austin which have a smaller, DIY-indie scene.	2366042
	Get anchor restaurants and stores to increase foot traffic	2366055
	Be Fox River Valley's LEADER in the local Renewable Energy sector. LED! Solar! Small Wind! The sky is the limit. Great for the planet, great PR.	2366226
Business assistance	This is vital! Empower local ventures and ensure that workshops are available in English and Spanish.	2356167
	Many want to start their own small business but need help as to how to begin and thus continue on to have a prosperous business	2356294
	New businesspeople in general are not going to sustain Aurora. The city needs a few strong established recognizable names to show that it is viable. Investment by sports figures or other major restaurant developers would make Aurora a competitive destination again.	2359994
	Stay out of it. Leave business alone. Terminate tax for Aurora Convention and Tourism Bureau. Mainly lower taxes, simplify development process restrict buerocracy.	2360486

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Partner with Waubensee, Aurora U and others. We need to work more together.	2361433
	No more fallen buisnesses	2363747
	If your going to open a business you should already be financially ready and have the know how on how to run a business.	2364013
	We don't want or need businesses that need gov help to start.	2364184
	The city needs to make an environment that businesses will be able to operate in	2364348
	Business assistance is great as long as the assistance is not diverted to the tax payers.	2364920
	Also inform residents of this support and future workshops	2364921
	Training would be sufficient	2365001
	They should not leave another building vacant in Aurora to go to downtown Aurora, though...	2365573
	Partnerships with local universities in the region, as well as the local public schools. Additional assistance to people who may only be able to work part-time or are late-in-life entrepreneurs.	2366042
Support small businesses	Have you ever been to Europe? Specialty shops dot the downtowns, much different than those in the US with our MALLS. Encourage foot traffic to small stores vs. one stop mega shop.	2355334
	Tax breaks, but only for those residing within Aurora's city limits.	2356167
	Help promote the business and have it attract attention, show that there are many good shops downtown and help put down the negative view of aurora	2356294
	Just not more Mexican restaurants!	2356417
	Do nothing. The city only hurts small business. Stop interfering, regulating and fining businesses.	2360486
	I agree with supporting small businesses. But in order to get people interested in going and staying in downtown, chain companies that are well known and visited like Starbucks and Panera should consider opening shop.	2363309
	Help thy neighbor succeed	2363747
	Please refer to " Adress barriers to businesses" comment	2364013
	gov should support by not picking which bus to support. Strong & easy to understand rules and regs for EVERYONE! Gov is create & enforce law, not help business.	2364184
	Yes we definitely need this type of support	2364348
	...NEW small business. We need more unique shops and destinations. The city can only take so many Mexican restaurants	2364477
	Need a grand plan and stick to it before silly small business grants at this time. Wrong focus at the moment	2364763
	As long as the businesses are involved in maintaining the city of Aurora	2365001

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		Small businesses are great, but these must be appealing and not selling "used" items or be a thrift store. This goes back to the clientele that will ultimately go to downtown. Also, I'm all for diversity but encourage businesses to use English on their buildings. When I see a store where everything is Spanish I will not even consider going there. Clearly it is not encouraging me to do so-image/clientele.	2365734
		Want to see small food vendors that sell different thing like a chocolate store or candy shop so people will stop by and take something to snack on and walk around downtown	2366201
	Promote favorable uses	I am one the bike path couple times a month. It is a gem. But if it starts to get busy we may need by pass to separate bikes and walkers Love River Edge	2358280
		RiverEdge is a great example of the potential for downtown aurora!	2358999
		Look at the amount of outdoor entertain,net there is currently on the Fox. Almost nothing. The city has a beautiful river running throughout, and there is very little that showcases that site. Instead the backs of ma y buildings face the river. Accentuate this asset.	2359994
		Favorable uses? Let the market determine. Aurora's planning has only hurt	2360486
		More diverse businesses. We already have a lot of the same types of business, which is probably why the economy hasn't grown.	2361795
		The rivers edge was a great idea but not fun when there for an event and it said no where on the ticket to bring your own chair, that's a problem	2363747
		Once again, create strong easy to understand rules that apply to everyone. The workforce that is necessary will drive other business to the area. Right now, bus pick or move to other towns because you never know what to expect from Aurora other than if your not friends or heaven forbid stand up for your rights, you will loose against this city.	2364184
		If favorable uses includes bars, I'm in favor. If favorable uses includes herbal medicine stores, please don't.	2364705
		Having concerts and events at the park are amazing	2365001
		What is happening in Aurora with the Paramount and River's Edge is great, not sure what more to add but the more you have the more people will come.	2365343
		Especially arts & entertainment. We do that well - in a funky, ethnic way especially different from other towns. That's our niche!	2365573
		Want to see small food vendors that sell different thing like a chocolate store or candy shop so people will stop by and take something to snack on and walk around downtown	2366201
Experience	General Suggestions	Improving bike access to the Metra station	2351485
		Return Galena and New York to one way. Galena eastbound at Broadway is treacherous.	2364502
		cohesive architecture and strong business center	2364763
		Providing an experience that reflects the diversity of the residents.	2366042
	Signage and maps	You have to lead us to the water so that we can drink it!	2345074

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	We need to know where to go.	2358280
	This is the biggest problem we have. It has gotten better but my own frinds from ipriver and east think there are'stoll regular drive by shootings'and infettered gang activities in all parks of Aurora and especially downtown. Not true but outsiders generally feel it is a very unsafe place.	2359990
	Handicap parking should be a priority which it is NOT.	2360255
	the current signage is pretty clear	2360903
	Not sure what attractions we need to connect people to.	2361433
	I think even overdoing signing would be favorable to make sure people have an easy time getting around.	2362658
	I think even overdoing simple signage would be favorable to make sure people have an easy time getting around.	2362658
	Not necessary. People can figure it out. It's a small downtown area.	2362880
	I live here and I know where everything is but for my family from out of town the maps are confusing to them.	2363736
	Consider digital touch signage	2364757
	This is key! Who is Aurora? Make it clean and hang them on the light posts. Flowers, clean buildings and streets. No run down buildings, no cracked sidewalks, fill the empty spaces. Get some cool architecture firms, up and coming accounting partners, and a small new law office to rent a space and show they are confident in the area...but you have to have something cool for them to wak to at lunch, and for their clients to see.	2364775
	I think Aurora has done a good job or marking parking and adding directional signate	2365343
Improve parking experience	Signage will help ... there is a perception issue here ... I believe that we have good parking ... we just don't know it.	2345074
	There have been some bumps in the road, to be sure, but parking has improved greatly. There are tons of public lots, and the rules regarding street parking and time limits are clearly posted. The ordinance prohibiting repeat parking in the same block seems absurd, though I understand that this is targeted at Waubonsee students. I wish that Waubonsee would do a better job providing parking and shuttles for their students so that downtown businesses didn't have to be so concerned. For the most part, though, parking has not been a problem for us or for any guests we've invited to downtown Aurora.	2351485
	The only time that I wish for improvements to the existing parking system is when there is an event at River Edge Park. I would love for the City to consider setting up remote lots with a convenient shuttle to the venue, much like they have at Ravinia.	
	Dump the confusing overlay of colors - adopt a clearer - simplified scheme.	2351738
	Allow (ENCOURAGE) long-term residential parking in and around downtown.	

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

Parking is fine. It's not like people can't find parking	2355561
This is incredibly important given the lack of parking available.	2356167
If we decide to live downtown this will be a big drawback. No when we visit or bike down it is not a problem. Make enough safe places to leave bikes. I a lot of people are on bike path and Gilman trail. They will stop to eat if their bike will be close and safe.	2358280
O think a downtown free trolley from the parking structures and train station circleing the downtown attractions would provide better access to events and attractions. Handicap parking access to Riverfront is non existent. People with even minor mobility issues are not provided for in anyway. I can't even drop off my wife at the entrance. She has to walk blocks from the parking facilities which she can not do. This is a pitiful oversight in the planning and development of Riveredge Park. So we never go there because'we can't do to mobility issues.	2359990
Stop creating more eyesore parking lots that can be used for businesses, restaurants, art galleries, and housing options.	2360228
Let's make handicap parking a priority all over downtown!	2360255
Needed if you want people to visit/stay in the downtown area!	2360452
I don't think parking is a problem except when the Paramount is having a show an even then it is not bad.	2361433
Adding more EV charging stations around the city will bring more sustainable people to our city.	2361795
Adding more EV charging stations around the city will bring more sustainable minded people to our city.	2361795
I think parking is pretty easy to find if you look online ahead of time.	2362658
Handicap and wheelchair parking markers there needs to be more of	2362974
Just dont start charging us for parking. Thats what makes Downtown Aurora 1000x better then Chicago	2363130
It would be great to add a parking garage, similar to Downtown Naperville. It would encourage people to walk around downtown Aurora, especially if more well known or new businesses were to be implemented downtown.	2363364
I can never find parking for the hours I'm going to be in downtown	2363736
free parking garages	2364372
Free off street parking.	2364763
Eliminate meter readers	2365160
Parking areas need to be safe. Honestly I am fearful when walking around in these dark places	2365160
I tend to avoid the parking garage down the street from the Paramount, loser to the casino, is always backed up and hard to get out of. The one behind the Paramount by the Subway is better. But like the smaller parking lots or street parking.	2365343

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	These need to be well lit and safe	2365734
	Free parking, consistent worth batavia, geneva, st Charles and Naperville	2366055
Pedestrian access to Metra	I'm not sure that access to Metra isn't already adequate ... a nicer Metra experience would help though ...	2345074
	Yes -- for commuters, an accident waiting to happen.	2351698
	Everyone has complained about this...	2356417
	Crossing Broadway on foot to get to or from the station is putting your life at risk. Traffic is fast moving, heavy and I see people running the stop lights everyday. No police oversight of the traffic at all.	2359990
	pedestrian bridge across river will help greatly	2360903
	Pedestrian bridge crossing the Fox from the intersection of West Park and River	2364053
	I'd like to see busses to more neighborhoods. Or this taken. Away put back.	2364228
	I have never taken Metra from the downtown Aurora station, just the 59 station, which is fine. I can not comment on the other situation.	2365343
	BRIDGE ACROSS RIVER BIG STEP	2365541
	Well lit and safe	2365734
Strong links to riverfront	Yes ... embrace our Riverfront and lead people to it ... RiverEdge Park is doing a lot in that regard ... more river front places to go would be great and would bring more varieties of people to the downtown area.	2345074
	Have lived in South Bend and seen the often fruitless and expensive struggle to make the river front an attraction. Could be a supplement to a good downtown (a la Naperville) but not something to base it on	2351698
	I feel there isn't enough association with the river, this is a section that has a lot of room for improvement.	2356026
	Promote what we have to offer, this city's beauty and pride which is the river, the river is more than just a body of water, the riveredge park was a huge step forward	2356294
	This is our gem. good signage now on bike path. Maybe promote our connecting bike path to Oswego and Batavia & towns north. This is unbelievable asset.	2358280
	This is a big problem for Riveredge Park. Even the buses don't or can't drop pff'at Riveredge. No pedestrian access along the east side of the river from downtown to Riveredge park that I know of. It needs a riverwalk.	2359990
	A small amusement park would bring families in as well as couples. It would also bring money to the area.	2360452
	The riverfront experience is a good way to engage people.	2362658
	We must improve our image	2364348
	it doesn't matter how nice our bike paths and riverwalk is if there isn't any other reason to be there	2364372

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Paths to the river are nice, but Aurora won't be a riverfront city until Aurora makes massive investments in insect control. The river is all but unusable in its current condition.	2364705
	This is where its at.	2364755
	Throw out the river walk plan and hire Green and Associates who had a much better plan of connecting spaces downtown then the Perkins and Will Team provided.	2364763
	Make sure real-estate developers and businesses do not restrict access to the riverfront.	2366042
Comfort and safety	The image of DTA as unsafe is erroneous. I've lived here for 23 years and have not witnessed anything that would keep me out of DTA. However, the more people walk the streets and utilize it, the more people it will attract - it's too lonely right now (tho getting better). People want to be where the action is; downtown Naperville may have a lot of businesses but what it really has is a "scene" - going there to hang out with everyone else. Personally, I detest Naperville, love DTA, but wish more people felt the same way and that I could spend a day down there getting all of my shopping, etc. done. Frequently go to our restaurants/coffee shops/farmers market/art walks/first fridays/libraries, etc. (No coffee shop in the library a really wasted opportunity)	2351698
	The city should only employ these patrol techniques if they are using people from within the community, not simply under the guise that it would encourage those from surrounding cities to visit. Downtown Aurora is rather safe, no need to have a strong police presence unless truly warranted.	2356167
	If one does not feel safe and secure walking downtown no one will want to go, the atmosphere is important if we are looking to have more interaction and involvement in the community it has to be safe location	2356294
	I work at the casino & was told that I'd see a stronger downtown police presence...beat & bike cops. I haven't seen any.	2356417
	Our strength is our diversity. We need to make all people welcome. Need things a variety of people will enjoy, not single out a specific group.	2358280
	Parts of Woodlawn are plain scary. It serves as a barrier to me walking to downtown. I drive to downtown when I would usually walk.	2359949
	There is a feeling or reputatoon that gangs run wild in downtown Aurora. Even my friends and family who love is Chicago think it is not safe in Aurora. I feel relatively safe in some of but not all of the downtown area. But outsiders don't think it is.	2359990
	Abandon homes due to abandonment or fire damage in or around dta should be torn down so homeless ppl do not have access to them. Plus, it would make Aurora more beautiful & have higher property value for the surrounding area.	2360452
	With all the madness going on around the world, safety is so important.	2361795
	Visible enhancements to safety will be key to dispelling the notion that downtown Aurora is unsafe.	2362658
	Downtown Aurora is not family friendly. We'd rather drive the extra distance to downtown Naperville because it's safer, has happier/nicer people, is energetic, family-friendly and is beautiful.	2362880

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		Don't allow loitering by homeless	2362916
		Very important to me! I'm from the Far East side and honestly I'm scared to take my 2 year old to downtown Aurora past sunset because of the gang problems.	2363148
		Protect and serve, not profile and detain.	2363272
		Safety is a large concern when traveling around the city	2363966
		This is the most important thing to improving our city.	2364119
		Safety is the number 1 issue keeping me from ever attending current events in downtown Aurora.	2364312
		This is a number one priority!	2364348
		Start with children programs, so they learn not to fear the police.	2364755
		The safety issue is more of a concern in the areas near downtown.	2364763
		Make sure all parking lots are well lit at night	2364921
		Stronger enforcement of housing violations with fines attached to weed out undesirables. Just feel unsafe	2365160
		I believe the imagine of Aurora is that it is not safe. The more we can highlight the safely the better.	2365343
		need to improve the condition af the downtown and surrounding areas. Need to eliminate the gang presence around the surrounding downtown area	2365424
		My number one reason for not going into downtown Aurora is safety concerns.	2365734
		I don't feel unsafe in Downtown Aurora, and honestly, if people are saying they would like less crime, then more needs to be done to address the needs of those who live in the immediate vicinity of Downtown: better schools, better infrastructure, and better access to resources. Learn from the mistakes made by the CPD, perhaps by working with the community.	2366042
Fox River	General Suggestions	Pedestrian/Bike bridge between the east and west banks of the river.	2351485
		Take steps to insure safety in and around the river	2351592
		Dinner cruises or cocktail cruises?	2363954
	Fox River programming	Look at San Antonio's River Walk ... a model for any city of river ...	2345074
		For years many a good soul have worked to make the Fox River a cleaner and safer place. Celebrate one of our greatest assets.	2355334
		There's mostly only riveredge park. The river walk leaves much to be desired. The river also barely has any public use, it would be nice to see the white waters section updated and made safe and a section for peddle boating.	2356026
		A diverse set of programming that reflects that beauty of its population.	2356042
		maybe invite Audubon to do bird watching. Or work with Park District, forest preserves to do. study wetland, how is water processed etc	2358280
		Zumba on the river! Yoga on the river...etc. Perhaps moving the farmers market to the streets to get people downtown & at the river and storefronts.	2358999

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Anything worth doing people will do privately. Stop the bread and circuses. Lower taxes	2360486
	I love that! How about some National dance day spots, and Tai Chi classes. Snow sculpture building contests...work with Fox Valley Park District to promote.	2363354
	Yes!!	2366162
Trail signage	Always helpful ...	2345074
	Why not teach as we enjoy the beauty of the trails?	2355334
	This os needef.	2359990
	No more signs	2360486
	Yes! And employ real historians & teachers (such as myself) in the area to write fun facts and even plan geocache sites and scavenger hunts!	2363354
	Basic, simple signs in key areas/spots ok. Don't create sign city on the River	2364396
	Great idea for those who are passing through on the trails...	2364952
	All trails should have some kind of safety precaution built in. I would not hike trails around downtown Aurora without this.	2365734
Recreational river use	Would hate to see the Fox River become a playground ... it should be enjoyed without being abused.	2345074
	Historically (before the industrial dumping in the river), there were more things going on in the river as recreation. Bring it back!	2355334
	Great to have canoe rental, needs to be promoted to all of Aurora and up and down river at other towns	2358280
	Boat rides/paddle boats would be awesome & bring people in.	2360452
	Are we going to continue to dump money into the canoe Shoot. The next pol who brings this bottomless pit up needs to be voted out of office	2360486
	Dam makes using river scary.	2361213
	I would love something like this! I forget sometimes how close we are to the fox river. Would love some family friendly activities!	2363148
	Yes, yes, yes! Rent canoes and SUPs too?!	2363354
	Paddle boat rental would be great!	2364952
	Yes yes yes! We have a great resource. Let's fix the canoe chute etc!!!!	2365573
Yes! More access to the river!!	2366162	
Water quality	The Fox River is doing well ... we could always improve but it's not at the top of the list of things to be concerned about ...	2345074
	Always!!! We need to maintain clean water as it does get filtered into our homes.	2355334
	The river smells bad.	2356156
	Yes the rover stinks, lierally.	2359990
	The fans are necessary to prevent the river bottom from stinking up Downtown. Leave them alone.	2360486
	Yes	2362924

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		The water is really gross, seriously consider this.	2363130
		I KNOW we can do this! There are so many natural ways to improve water quality...we can again enlist schools and AP Environmental classes to help with a contest. Or perhaps explore some federal grants for marshland restoration?	2363354
		People need to feel the water is safe	2364348
		Do NOT remove dam	2365168
	River connections	People will connect if there is a way and a reason ...	2345074
		Again, teach, learn, respect what we have.	2355334
		In addition to those listed, increase number of water fountains and bathroom locations for those that are using the river trail recreationally. It is a great bike/running trail but lacks some of the support.	2355836
		Roverwalk on the east bank.	2359990
		This would be a huge sell!!	2360411
		Stop spending money	2360486
		Yes	2362924
		Think High Line in NYC.	2363071
		Absolutely...with historic pictures of the same view so that people can compare! And fun stories/interactive signs for kids!	2363354
		Clean up and upkeep by the river.spider webs were all over.get wild flowers or easy perennials for walk ways or by the river ..lets have a better downtown then naperville	2363616
		Has to be well patrolled and considered safe.	2364259
		Yes more of this	2364348
		Making the river state of the art usable, will make it a destination for people from all of northern Illinois. This will bring in big tourist dollars.	2364755
		This is key to attracting people to the river. I'm a naturalist too but not in an urban setting. Right now you can't even see the river with all the natural wild life plants. Everytime I go down there I am shocked how we have blocked access to the river. Even some of the scrap trees need to be removed. Limestone blocks should be installed so the people can sit, fish and enjoy the view.	2366162
		The Fox River Walk needs a "brand" with signage, t-shirts, mugs... Market DTA like a festival or a theme park!	2366226
Housing	General Suggestions	Boutique hotels that will bring a uniqueness to overnight stays. Rather than chains, or in addition to them, establish a boutique hotel in one of the older landmark buildings, or build in a boutique hotel with a luxury residences building.	2359994
		There is a huge gap between the temporary housing/low quality apartments and high end luxury lofts currently located downtown. We need to raise our minimum standards and rehabilitate certain areas while creating new somewhat affordable housing for young professionals and students.	2361390

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	I think that overall the area surrounding the downtown is in bad shape. The houses are unkept and people are afraid to come to the city because they think it's "ghetto"	2361710
Encourage developers	People living downtown encourages the use of downtown facilities, especially those based in entertainment, dining and necessity supply ... grocery store ... restaurants ... nightclubs ... clothing stores ... etc.	2345074
	Developers who can actually deliver would be huge for DTA. Why actually is it so unattractive for developers??	2351698
	Only if you can rent them. The worst thing is unused housing.	2355561
	Do nothing. Stop discouraging developers	2360486
	I think we need to see increased demand before developing additional units.	2362658
	We have so many people here in Aurora who don't have a place to live because there's not enough space in this town.	2363747
	I just moved to downtown Aurora on Broadway and galena Blvd. I love it and would love to see more housing. I think the more housing, the more people will shop local. I am shopping more downtown and walking downtown with my 3 kids.	2364093
	With all of the available buildings in downtown why is it that developers aren't converting these into residential. COA needs to look at what their current incentives are, if any, and improve them. If you don't fix this none of the rest of the items in this survey will matter.	2364259
	Maintain the historical buildings	2365001
	This will only happen other improved safety measures	2365160
	We need more permanent housing for the mentally ill.	2365221
	Developers will assess the community as a whole. Therefore the homes that are falling apart, run down, or overgrown with weeds should be addressed. It goes back to image. People will not move into an area surrounded by homes like that. You need to take a no nonsense approach to code violations and be vigilant. Those who refuse to follow them will then move out of Aurora improving our city.	2365734
	Yes, but we should also be watchful of development that harms and displaces the city's current residents. We should also watch for development that is too bland and "generic-traditional" (i.e., Waubensee CC) or tacky and garish (The casino).	2366042
	Promote rehabilitation	It helps in attracting developers and will assist property owners to fix up and maintain their properties ... there also should be penalties associated with the not taking care of property by property owners.
If possible yes!! Why has it not been done before? Otherwise, judicially tear down the most egregiously unusable and build something that blends in and will be attractive to buyers/renters/etc.		2351698
Terminate the Historical District. It's killing rehab		2360486
People need help and need to know there's a safe place here in town for them to get the help that they need		2363747
This needs to be a top priority, if it looks like a ghost town no one is going to come to "play"		2364259

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	in addition to rehabilitation there are buildings in the near east and west sides that need to be torn down. The neighborhoods adjacent to downtown need to be made vibrant if downtown ever will be	2364372
	As long as the rebates and financial assistance is not offset by raising proper tax.	2364920
	Let's prioritized saving historic buildings over new construction.	2365221
	I would like to see responsible redevelopment and reuse of older buildings. I would also like to see protections against "pop-tops". While I do think any improvements to a building should preserve the integrity of the building, I think the city should encourage thoughtful, and daring developments and additions as well and not play it too safe.	2366042
Improve amenities	I believe that I said this elsewhere.	2345074
	Seriously, DTA would be an incredibly cool place to live - the architecture is fantastic; but it's not a walking city if there are no grocery stores, pharmacies, green markets, book stores, etc. for residents who live in DTA. Why can't a city of 200K plus not attract a Trader Joes??	2351698
	Grocery store - movie theater - (inexpensive) family resturant	2351738
	Need a grocery store, and stay ahead of parking issues as more people live downtown.	2358280
	Stop interfering, trying to pick winners and losers. It's not the City's job or competence	2360486
	Downtown already attracts people.	2363747
	Again, i think that a variety of shops and businesses that would make living downtown convenient would be great. It would be nice attract a few well known store chains to open some shops to attract others to establish a shopping district would be a great compliment to restaurant row and the theater and Rivers edge park.	2363920
	Again, a priority, focus on the services ie:dry cleaning, coffee shop, quick stop groceries, etc. balanced with the boutique shopping experience that people need in walking distance of the potential homes you want to develop here. If someone chooses to live downtown they want a walkable community, that means the everyday stuff you need has to be there.	2364259
	restaurants and stores!	2364372
	Need A Planet Fitness	2364486
	More good jobs are needed downtown.	2365221
	More should be done to make residences accessible to the disabled. There's been a rash of townhome developments that make it impossible for disabled residents to visit friends/family let alone live there.	2366042
	Address barriers	Obvious!
YES!!		2351698
Revise - adopt - the most recent building codes. Many barriers to rehab of historic buildings can/have been addressed under the most current BOCCA.		2351738
Revise - streamline the laborious, and confusing planning and permitting process.		

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		Talked to numerous developers in my line of work. The city has a terrible "can't do" reputation, and are not consistent in their approach.	2355375
		My house is paid off on the far east side (SD 204) my husband and I want to retire and move downtown but is expensive, units are small, has no storage for our bikes, and no parking for our cars.	2358280
		Eliminate mandates	2360486
		I absolutely hate the bike paths	2363747
		Thanks for getting rid of too many one way streets....	2364486
		Fix up the train bridges...they look horrible	2365221
		Let's prioritize saving historic buildings over building new.	2365734
		Get rid of the "eye sores." These properties deter potential home owners and are often the residences of individuals who are renting and are not vested in our community. If they will not improve their property they should be fined and given a specific date that things must be fixed by. If they don't more severe repercussions should be in place. They'll move eventually	2345074
	Engage the residents	But not only geared towards downtown residents ... the downtown belongs to the entire city, not just it's downtown residents ... tax dollars from non-downtown residents are being used to improve the downtown.	2351738
		We're already doing this with First Fridays - Wednesdays at the Plaza - various fairs and fests - etc.	2358280
		We love going to the First Friday! Taste of Aurora is also good. Used to have Wed afternoon concerts. Great movie on lawn at Prisco Center. Are season ticket holders to Paramount.	2360486
		Stop tormenting residents and businesses. We are tired of government	2363747
		Not enough people living in the downtown region to begin with. Prices are way to high to live down there	2364093
		Being a new downtown resident I would love to see more of this.	2364486
		Live cheaper in downtown Aurora Close to the train to Chicago .....get more express trains .....encourage UBER and LYFT	2364921
		Geared towards children!	2365221
		How about a tractor parade?	2365734
		Yes! However, there needs to be a greater purpose to it. Ex. River Clean Up Festival	
Image	General Suggestions	Safety: More bike and pedestrian police officers patrolling the downtown sidewalks.	2362880
	Corridor improvements	Absolutely ... you ain't going to walk into the place if it looks evil and decrepit ... in order to attract, it needs to be "attractive" and appealing ...	2345074

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	DTA doesn't need markers. It needs businesses of all kinds, including grocery, drug, book, antique, boutique stores to attract people and provide for potential residents. More coffee shops and restaurants that have the potential and resources to survive for the long term and build customer base. Other successful downtowns do not have entry corridors and don't need them.	2351698
	Lake Street from the North is abysmal. With either empty buildings or businesses that prey on low income folks.	2355334
	All entryways to downtown consist of dilapidated buildings, low-income-type businesses (payday loans, liquor stores) and questionable people milling about.	2356417
	Comming to Aurora from the east os a scary experience driving through run down neighborhoods. It creates a feeling of being insafe to most visitors from the east.	2359990
	As people from outside Aurora come to events, it's important they have a positive experience entering the downtown.	2360618
	A distinctive style and branding that is all our own! Instead of doing what everyone seems to do with Frank Lloyd Wright (I love him, but he's so over-played right now.). How about more of an Art Deco or Gothic vibe? We have amazing artists and designers...let's have a new logo contest?	2363354
	This is one of the main things that Aurora lacks that other lovely downtown areas have (I.e Batavia, Geneva, Naperville) everything just looks really aged and not in a "vintage" way but more in the sense that it really looks worn out.	2363530
	The city needs to have corridors that welcome visitors in a more positive way	2364348
	Visuals are always good. An entry into a city and the way it looks always makes people feel welcome (or not). I have lived on the west side of Aurora for 14 years and grew up in Naperville. I truly love Aurora, and am a Blackhawk through and through now, but downtown Naperville has such a welcoming appeal and visual draw.	2364775
	The railroad viaducts when you 1st come into town from the east look awful. I would think between the railroad and city you could find a decorative faux stone covering to make these look better. Makes downtown look very depressing.	2365161
	return to the one way streets along New York and Galena	2365424
	Banners on Lake St/ Rt 31 (like Batavia!) Banners on Indian Trail over the bridge. Banners on Orchard, Eola, the major traffic arteries.	2366226
Visual markers of downtown	that's a function of making it look attractive and letting people know that it's there ... we need to be reminded often	2345074
	If we show pride in our city to those coming to visit, will feel it and respect our city.	2355334
	Current signage seems adequate	2359990

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	I think some things should be consistent but not to the point where you lose the individuality of a business.	2362903
	Yes! With the new logo!	2363354
	The city needs better signage	2364348
	Unsure what this means	2364920
	I think things are pretty well marked and the planters and flowers help beautify the city. Nice job!	2365343
	"WELCOME TO THE ISLAND" ! Market the heck out of The Island...	2366226
Marketing and branding	Although the City of Aurora has stepped up their game in terms of branding and marketing, it's something that you do not stop doing ... you can back off a bit here and there once it's been established and it's working, but you never cease to improve and to continue to market ... there are always new people to attract and to make aware ... the world is not static ... it's dynamic.	2345074
	Our brand is tarnished so people don't want to move to aurora	2355561
	While there is importance to this...there is an entire community that w'll support downtown. We just need more quality options. Ballydoyle, Gillerson's, RiverEdge are successful examples of what we want. I want to have great dining exprinces in my own city. I shouldn't have to drive to geneva, naperville, or Oswego to do so.	2358999
	With Aurora talent. The new logo is an epic fail.	2359952
	There is not much to brand that woukd attract people to the downtown.the casino and the Paramount are good anchors but only one or two decent resturants and parking is'a huge detractor.	2359990
	Bring people downtown to shop and experience the arts	2361448
	Marketing and branding would reach people outside of Aurora also. To improve downtown and it's economy you can't just rely of City residents.	2363070
	But you have to back up the brand with substance and a thriving downtown. Downtown is *not* a destination.	2363071
	This will only take money away from more important things.	2363277
	Work with Fox Valley Park District, they do a great job!	2363354
	The city needs to clean out old vacant buildings and storefronts. in order to make downtown more inviting	2364348
	what we need are more reasons for people to be downtown, we can tell people all we want how nice downtown is, but if there is only one or two things to do, people still won't come. People go to downtown Naperville and Geneva not only because they are attractive and pleasant but because there are a myriad of restaurants and shops to enjoy	2364372
	We need more shops in town that would draw visitors here-too many Hispanic businesses.	2365161

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	I will be honest I go more towards Naperville than Aurora, if we follow their example, think it would improve the image.	2365343
	People know Aurora is diverse so this can be used as a positive if that diversity contributes to the experience.	2365734
Get the word out	Social Media is the hot form of advertising and creating awareness ... we need to be active in most forms of Social Media ... I'm 64 and I get it ... Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and don't forget Email and Website ... by the way, the City's Website could use a work over ...	2345074
	So massively important the good use of social media to promote the downtown.	2348551
	The City of Aurora has a newsletter and Facebook page that is very informative. Unfortunately it can be a case of "you can lead a horse to water...".	2355334
	I don't know of any cohesive media campaign that is in place. Paramount is well promoted but even RiverEdge Park is pretty much unknown outside of Aurora.	2359990
	This is done pretty well now but must be maintained to help people understand the positive changes occurring	2361448
	Don't print newsletters. They're expensive and usually end up in the trash. Perhaps create an e-newsletter.	2362880
	I suggest social media or web based advertising because most newsletters are thrown directly in the trash.	2362903
	Text message updates once a week or once a month.	2364093
	The city does a good job of this	2364348
	Aurora Downtown does a great job. Just needs a bigger and more culturally diverse team of promoters.	2366226
Neighborhood Identity	This idea would be very cool indeed ... but do that for all neighborhoods ... builds pride and creates an identity ... can help encourage bad neighborhoods to improve ...	2345074
	Not aware of "downtown neighborhoods" which need no introduction. We have a thriving residential city, but our downtown businesses are sorely lacking.	2351698
	Like any city of this size, we have many cultural neighbors and integrated ones. We should celebrate this diverse coming together into a cohesive neighborhood where we all want a safe, healthy, maintained place for families to thrive.	2355334
	Like any city of this size, we have many cultural neighborhoods and integrated ones. We should celebrate this diverse coming together into a cohesive neighborhood where we all want a safe, healthy, maintained place for families to thrive.	2355334
	Aurora has no identity. People are east side, west side or the rest	2355561
	East Aurora high school, west Aurora high school, Aurora university should have a place to show their pride in downtown. A gear place or some hall of fame if the schools around the area know they have stuff for them down there they may head over there more	2356065
	What neighborhoods are there downtown? I thought downtown was the neighborhood.	2359990

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		But only if there really will be distinct "niche" identities in those areas. If it's all name and no substance or vision attached to developing those niche areas, it won't work.	2359994
		utilize neighborhood names ala Chicago neighborhoods, to form identity and pride of ownership within neighborhoods	2361492
		Crime in near east side a problem	2361557
		I moved to the area 3 years ago and had no idea the area I moved to was called Pigeon Hill until earlier this year. There's no signs or anything about that. I just heard about it from someone who lived in the area forever.	2362877
		This would be a waste of money. Frankly, nobody cares about the neighborhood names.	2362880
		Not sure what type of neighborhoods are downtown, but I separating into areas does not create a sense of unity. Should be one community.	2362903
		Absolutely! Encourage and even allow some funding for neighborhoods that will pick a month to host a block party!	2363354
		This is not a priority at this time	2364348
		Maybe not banners. That looks cheap and does not keep well.	2364920
		Neighborhoods need to be cleaned up. Stronger enforcement of code violations. Entering the downtown from the Far East side is scary when you see the condition of houses and overgrown landscaping.	2365160
		I don't think neighborhood identity is a good idea, We are one neighborhood--AURORA	2365304
		Definitely! Instead of casting a dark shadow over the urban areas of Aurora. Embrace them and their culture i.e.; Chicago's little village, little Italy, etc. obviously you create your own unique thing.	2365658
		I like this idea but there are some neighborhoods that are dangerous, oe appear like they are-these need to be addressed.	2365734
Mobility	General Suggestions	Free, safe and easy to locate parking garages.	2360506
		Promote store front that draw people from all of the community,	2362924
	Pedestrian improvements	Looking forward to the new bricked crosswalks on Galena, but when they're always blocked by vehicles, they may as well be nonexistent. I've lived downtown for 8+ years and can never use the crosswalks at the Paramount or Water Street. When cars back up for the Broadway traffic light, cars always block these. Middle of the street signage (currently on Downer) along with maybe Cadet policing? Crossing Galena has become a game of Frogger! Also, on nice days, while I can appreciate music, when it's blaring from cars with open windows, the pedestrian experience suffers.	2356417

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Hobo town. That's the image you have created	2360486
	In order to experience the rich variety Aurora offers one must walk around!	2360871
	More bike lanes	2363079
	I would love to see the islands utilized and developed. Perhaps also a whitewater area for kayaking (like Yorkville has?)	2363354
	areas i have seen seem adequate	2364848
	At least make an effort reduce speeding near parks and in neighborhoods.	2365001
Bicycling encouragement	The bike rental program is great! However, with the emphasis on bicycles downtown, how about enforcing the NO bikes on sidewalks law? As a pedestrian, I am almost run over weekly as bicyclists approach from behind.	2356417
	Great connections, need updated bike map	2358280
	This'woll only serve a small number of people.	2359990
	Streets are for cars. You've impaired transportation. Stop	2360486
	Please, promote awareness that both cyclists and pedestrians must follow traffic laws.	2360871

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Bicycling will not bring the number of people to foster increased revenue to the city. Don't make it impossible for automobile traffic to get around and find free parking.	2361480
	Bike paths fine not on the roads	2362924
	I like the new rental bikes...great idea! Expand?	2363354
	There seems to be a ton of scary homeless looking people near the downtown and on bike paths.	2363616
	The existing bike paths on the streets are amazing. I feel safe as a bicyclist on the roads. We need to expand those where possible.	2364119
	Put stakes so cars won't drive in bike lane northbound on River. Make right hand lane turn only.	2364502
	The new bike lanes are awesome but I constantly see people not using them and still riding on the sidewalks. The police officer assigned to the downtown area on 2nd shift sits in his car and uses his computer and makes comments on Facebook. He pays no attention to these issues.	2364920
Healthy living programs	I think having bike lane on Benton is dangerous. TOO much traffic, move it a parallel street. I never use it. NO body on bike uses it.	2358280
	RTA is plundering us stop totally.	2360486
	Public transportation has been improving slowly. Integration of all transportation services must be a priority.	2360871
	Yes! We should continue to promote health and wellness...I love the Mastadon lake workout path...add one by the River?	2363354

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	If there's dancing and aerobic events in the parks it would be wonderful. Outdoor gyms and tracks too maybe	2365001
Transit usage	The real issue, for us, is that public transit hours and routes have not been convenient. When we commuted using Metra, our bus route stopped service at 5 p.m., which is not useful - we could barely get onto the the train by 5 p.m., let alone all the way out to Aurora and back onto our bus. We now have jobs that don't require a commute, so it's no longer an issue for our family. However, signage and promotions won't do much good if the buses don't run at convenient times.	2351485
	We have the train downtown, we need to talk that up!	2358280
	Free shuttle service downtown in the evenings running from parking areas to attractions. Even if only on weekends.	2359990
	Free shuttle service downtown in the evenings running from parking areas to attractions and train station. Even if only on weekends.	2359990
	Thus is Commie BS. A waste of money. Stop it	2360486
	First, you need to improve the offer, the demand will follow.	2360871
	If I recall correctly. The shuttle downtown Aurora is not handicap accessible. This is very useful and needed to to accommodate wheelchairs	2362974
	Unfortunately, we are a car city and need more parking before public transit growth.	2363354
	A lot of our residents already rely on the public transit system.	2364119
	Develop looping trolleys or shuttles that connect to areas,with parking outside of downtown, to alieve congestion especially as more cultural, dining and shopping added.	2364396

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		The transit system has issues. In a city the size of Aurora, one should be able to reach ALL Public/Government offices. Like Social Security, Department of Human Services, Drivers License Facility, LIHEAP office, etc. Recent changes were useful, but the cuts make next to impossible to get to these places! And of you are elderly, disabled, or have small kids. it's even worse...trying to cross major intersections, length of walk, etc. I don't know how Pace & the City of Aurora thought this was a good idea, and how did You get away with this?!	2364401
		The city of aurora transport system is amazing	2365001
	Complete streets policy	Streets are for Cars.	2360486
		Why are we even asking for this. It should have been done by now.	2360871
		Please improve all roads and add parking structures to clear out street parking in all but the widest areas!	2363354
	Public Spaces	General Suggestions	Not sure if this would fall under public spaces or arts & entertainment, but I think we should look into the idea of introducing festivals such as beer festivals, wine festivals, jazz and ribs festival, or even margaritas and tacos etc. They're a great way to bring the entire community together.
benches for sitting water fountains			2360903
Clean up the massive amounts of spiders and cobwebs along bridges and buildings near the river.			2363402
Create spaces for children and families (playground, splash pad, etc.)			2364047
Reduce the amount of people who park in the streets... Even the residential section			2365001
Reinstitute Downtown Alive...it got folks of all ages downtown. Because it was spread out and included music, a car show, kid activities, food vendors, everyone was able to spread out and parking was not an issue.			2365846
Signage. A VISITORS CENTER!			2366226
Streetscaping and lighting		I think lighting is good downtown.	2352407
	The downtown has come a LONG way from where it was in terms of safety. Yes with the right lighting it will be a pleasant area.	2355334	

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	Transition from high pressure sodium lamps (orange) to LED (natural). Less upward light pollution, more attractive and improved color rendering, and some studies point to a possible reduction in crime. Additionally, low energy cost and low maintenance. Aurora is the City of Lights; it is time to lead the charge toward the future.	2355836
	Transition from high pressure sodium lamps (orange) to LED (natural). Less upward light pollution, more attractive and improved color rendering, and some studies point to a possible reduction in crime. Additionally, low energy cost and low maintenance. Aurora is the City of Lights; it is time to lead the charge toward the future. Also, bury overhead power/phone lines. They are unsightly and spoil the aesthetic as you are entering or exiting the city.	2355836
	Modern and matching street lighting would be nice, as would artsy light displays.	2356026
	This takes precedence over a patrol system. Lighting truly makes all the difference. Even the introduction of "blue lights" like those used on college campuses.	2356167
	I love the planters & hanging baskets of flowers...they look great! However, when a large amount of rain is forecasted, do they need to be watered? Couldn't the city worker's time be spent better on beautifying the area?	2356417
	We have excellent street scape and lighting. No new expenditures	2360486
	Friendly policing. If people don't feel safe they won't come downtown.	2360608
	Lighting should be consistent and in keeping with the historic nature of the downtown.	2360618
	How about some security cameras on the streets?	2361795
	Lighting is needed along the river just south of Jakes bagels. It's pitch black on that bridge after concerts.	2361934
	I love the idea of having unique lighting for public spaces in the City of Lights.	2362658
	The more light, the better! (It is the City of Lights after all! Let's play that up?)	2363354
	In favor of this only if the extra lighting is from the glow of thousands of bug zappers.	2364705
	We should not spend a lot on trees and fancy park benches at the expense of the rest of town that needs the roads patched.	2365221
	I don't know where to place this comment, but any modifications to public spaces should address accessibility for the elderly and disabled.	2366042
	Its the city of light some of the areas are dark and gloomy	2366201
Yearround activities	We are a four season part of the country, why not keep the community spirit alive by having activities to solidify that year round.	2355334
	Expand to include all nationalities, not just Latinos (I know that there have been others, but the Latino activities occur annually & are the largest.	2356417
	No more bread and circuses.	2360486
	It's important to encourage people to visit downtown on a consistent, year-round basis.	2362658

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	I really enjoy going to events year round in Aurora. This is one of my favorite things to do here, I follow your FB page and go to a lot events that are posted on there.	2362877
	We need more splash pads and places to safely ice skate/sled!	2363354
	Less noise pollution	2365001
Encourage reinvestment	Too many buildings vacant with no signs for rent or sale. Not only the ground level but the potential for residential above!	2355334
	Find ways to save more old, attractive buildings. A large number are left vacant until they fall into disrepair and become unsalvageable. By losing these buildings, Aurora is losing some of its heritage. These buildings call back to a time when Leland Tower was the tallest building in Illinois, outside of Chicago. They show the early prosperity and class that made Aurora an important community outside of Chicago.	2355836
	Be Careful not to gentrify and move out long time community members.	2356042
	Aurora needs desirable stores and stuff to get people down there	2356065
	Yes! If owner is interested in selling or leasing they should post on building so ppl who are interested have knowledge of that information.	2360452
	Stop discouraging it.	2360486
	It is very depressing to see crumbling buildings when you walk around.	2360871
	Incentives for growing innovative businesses create office space. Uber, Google draw millennials to take advantage of lower cost living. Create a live, work, play city!	2363173
	This is not really our job, but buying a few more city spots might be something the city could do and build into public areas?	2363354
	I think all the vacant buildings is what keeps Aurora from being a great downtown. The infrastructure has so much potential, it would be great if every storefront had a business or restaurant that is attractive to enter with unique housing options on the upper stories such as lofts and industrial styled. I don't think we can compete with the preppiness of Naperville, but some of the most up and coming neighborhoods in Chicago are that style that Aurora offers.	2363511
	Everything should be done to invest and preserve the beautiful architecture of downtown Aurora.	2363920
	This is important. The empty buildings and store fronts are an eye sore but if we could get shops, cafes, bars, etc in there it could help make Aurora a place to want to visit and boost the city's economy.	2364087
	To many vacant buildings in downtown aurora now. It looks shabby and abandoned	2364162
	This needs to be a priority	2364490
	This should be the city's #1 priority!!!!	2364822
	Go back to offering incentives to convert homes back tonsingle family...especially on the eastside. Offer homeowner incentives for fireman, police, teachers who work in Aurora to live in Aurora	2364965
	Not sure it is government's role to dictate owners rights.	2365221

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

	take steps to eliminate vacant properties. Impose fines on vacant properties	2365424
	YES. What happened to the 'Onion-Dome' building. It's beautiful and it's a shame that the building has been left to decay.	2366042
	Offer incentives for renting to different types of businesses examples-more clothing or accessory places, more coffee shops, restaurants.	2366055
	Sell and remodel open small shops similarly to bativia or saint Charles	2366201
	Show no mercy to bum landlords and building owners. Be vigilant! Insist on excellence, fresh paint jobs, clean windows!	2366226
Active vibrant ground floor	Cities/Towns were build around a town square, which we really do not have here. The closest thing we have would be Stolp Island. That is our center, the heart of Aurora, bringing together the East and West sides of the city. Utilize the storefronts as much as possible!	2355334
	Not sure that the whole 'art' thing is what downtown needs. Art is subjective...to me, it's a waste and I've seen some things that I find offensive. If you want art, hop on the train & visit the Art Institute of Chicago. On a sarcastic note, I've mentioned photographing all off the bum vomit that I dodge for an exhibit.	2356417
	Please allow us to fill these vacant spaces with student art!!!! We are at a national level here at Aurora Christian High School. Please check us out. <a href="http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=5681">http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=5681</a> We could easily print out any artwork to fill the Windows and there are over 7,000 artworks we have electronically that could be output. Please contact me if you are seriously wanting these City Improvements - we have been doing this in the Aurora area since 2009!!!! Please contact me if this is not a political stunt. Many of your problems we have answered for free for years!!!! E-mail [redacted]	2359952
	There should be some guidelines so retail renters make their storefront classier not cheesy which will bring in people to the downtown area.	2360452
	Let the owner decide. The arts community in Aurora are tatoood freeloaders	2360486
	Attractive Store fronts.	2360608
	The resident artists have been proactive on this matter and their efforts are greatly appreciated.	2360871
	Visuals do draw interest! Use the schools to help add color through student-made & free art!	2363354
	Get rid of stores on the main drag On Broadway that look like fancy dress shops...too many jewelry stores. Have a better plan to offer businesses. Turn them into housing units	2364486

Downtown Aurora Public Comments on Recommendations

		The current Riverwalk guidelines have specific requirements on window treatments. posters in windows is not recommended, Only points out the vacant building. A worthy effort but misguided	2364763
		Vacant Window Project does a great job. It needs city funding, etc.	2365445
		If you mean art in vacant building's windows, that's ok but doesn't really do much except highlight that there are vacant buildings....	2365573
		It would be great if Aurora gets to the point where there is patio seating outside.	2366042
		Maker Malls. Encourage makers to be visible in the front windows - not just static displays.	2366226